

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5643
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 05733

USEEC, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, ELAB
SUBJ: UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY LEVELS OFF

REF: BRUSSELS 3644

1. AFTER REACHING A PEAK OF CLOSE TO SIX MILLION IN AUGUST 1977, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAS LEVELED OFF AT AROUND THE 5.9 MILLION MARK, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY REPORT ON UNEMPLOYMENT (FEBRUARY) JUST RELEASED BY THE EC COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION DOES NOT PUBLISH SUPPORTING DATA ON SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT, BUT THE TREND IS INDICATED ON A CHART ISSUED WITH THE STATISTICAL REPORT.

2. THE UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY 1978 STATED IN UNADJUSTED TERMS ALSO CONTAIN SOME GOOD NEWS--A SLIGHT DROP FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH: 6,260,000 UNEMPLOYED IN FEBRUARY, COMPARED TO 6,243,000 IN JANUARY. FEBRUARY-TO-FEBRUARY COMPARISONS, HOWEVER, SHOW INCREASES:

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REGISTERED UNEMPLOYMENT IN E.C.
(OOO'S OMITTED)

	FEB. 78	FEB. 77	CHANGE
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MALE	3,740	3,516	PLUS 6.4 PERCENT
FEMALE	2,520	2,259	PLUS 11.6 PERCENT

TOTAL 6,260 5,775 PLUS 8.4 PERCENT

3. THE COMMUNITY'S UNEMPLOYMENT TOTALS FOR FEBRUARY, 1978, ARE TENTATIVE, HOWEVER, NOT ONLY BECAUSE THE FIGURES FOR ITALY ARE STILL PRELIMINARY (AS IS THE CASE ALMOST EVERY MONTH) BUT BECAUSE THE FIGURES FOR FRANCE ARE COMMISSION ESTIMATES (DATA FROM FRANCE BECAME AVAILABLE ONLY AFTER THE EC REPORT WENT TO PRESS.)

4. THE COMMUNITY'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR FEBRUARY 1978 IS ESTIMATED AT 5.9 PERCENT, THE SAME AS FOR JANUARY, BUT COMPARED TO 5.5 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY 1977.
BREAKOUTS OF TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY COUNTRY:

	FEB. 1978	FEB. 1977
BELGIUM	8.2 PERCENT	7.2 PERCENT
DENMARK	7.7	6.5
FRANCE	--	4.8
GERMANY	4.8	4.3
HOLLAND	4.6	4.7
IRELAND	9.8	10.2
ITALY	8.0	6.6
LUXEMBOURG	0.9	0.5
UNITED KINGDOM	5.9	5.5

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EC-9 AVERAGE 5.9# 5.5

#ESTIMATED. MORRIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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